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stratosphere-based platform. A stratospheric platform is preferably an unmanned vehicle that can fly for several months at an altitude of about 60,000 feet above the earth in small circles. The stratospheric platform 16 has numerous advantages including that capacity can be concentrated over a populated area, transmission delays associated with geostationary satellites are significantly reduced, the power for transmitting and receiving is substantially smaller than satellites, and the elevation angles of the system are high. The stratospheric platforms may also deploy relatively rapidly compared to satellites and thus, if the need increases, the system capability may be increased or modified. If the device is a stratospheric platform, the device operation center 22 may control the platform to fly in a small radius flight path over a given spot on the earth. Device operations center 22 may also provide replacement of parts and platforms for system 10.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 6 (i.e second paragraph) with the following rewritten paragraph:

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Referring now to Figure 3, a method 36 for operating the present invention according to a code division multiple access system is illustrated. As illustrated for simplicity, four code bins 38A-38D are illustrated. The various numbers of users in the system in each code bin are illustrated as well. For example, in bin 38A, 8 users are present, in bin 38B, 10 users are present, in bin 38C, 25 users are present, and in bin 38D, 40 users are present. When a new user comes into the system in step 40, step 42 checks to determine whether there are any empty code bins. If there are empty code bins in step 42, the new user is assigned a code within the empty bin in step 44. In step 46, the code bins are sorted with the number of users in ascending order as illustrated by bins 38A-38D.